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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/594,221	06/14/2000	Mark A. Horowitz	RB1-003US	7838

29150 7590 05/20/2003

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SPOKANE, WA 99201

EXAMINER

PHU, PHUONG M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2631

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DATE MAILED: 05/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/594,221

Applicant(s)

HOROWITZ ET AL.

Examiner

Phuong Phu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/31/02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

DETAILED ACTION

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over prior art admitted by the applicant in the specification in the instant application, in view of Chang et al (6,515,508).

As per claims 1-6, 8, 9-12, 14-20, 26-28 and 30, see figure 1 and page 2, line 10 to page 3, line 13 of the specification of the instant application, the admitted prior art discloses a method and associated system comprising:

step/means having a first device (100), as claimed;

step/means having a first connector (102), as claimed;

step/means having a second connector (104) coupled to the first connector through conductors, as claimed ; and

step/means having a second device (106), as claimed.

The admitted prior art does not disclose that alternating pairs of said conductors are reversed. Chang et al teaches that noise couplings among connectors which connect two devices can be reduced by cross-reversing pairs of conductors of connections between the two devices (see figure 14, and col. 9, lines 20-64). On the other hand, in the admitted prior art, noise

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coupling occurs between connectors of connections between the first connector and the second connectors. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art when building the admitted prior art to cross-reverse first, second and/or third pairs of conductors of connections between the first connector and the second connectors and/or to cross-reverse first, second and/or third pairs of conductors of connections between the second connector and the second device in order to reduce noise couplings between these two connectors.

As per claims 7, 13, 21 and 31, admitted prior art does not disclose that the first device has an inductive coupling coefficient substantially the same as the inductive coupling coefficient of the second device. However, when building admitted prior art, it would have been obvious that if the one skilled in the art used the first and second devices as the same type for driving signals, they would inherently have the same inductive coupling coefficient.

Claims 22-25 and 32-35 are rejected with similar reasons set forth for claims 1-21.

As per claim 29, admitted prior art does not disclose step of decoding signals outputted from the second device. However, the admitted prior art method is for driving signals for further processing. It would have been obvious that skilled in the art, for an application, could apply admitted prior art in a decoding system such that admitted prior art would pre-condition received signals and drive to them to a decoder for being decoded.

### *Conclusion*

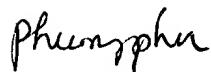
3. The applicant is hereby notified that the references "E" and "F" listed in the IDS filed on 8/27/00 are not considered due to that the examiner has not received copies of these references. The applicant, therefore, is requested to provide or re-provide copies of these references.

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong Phu whose telephone number is 703-308-0158. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00) First Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 703-305-4378. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.



Phuong Phu  
April 23, 2003

Phuong Phu  
Primary Examiner  
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